AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended): Hydrogel composition comprised of a mixture of

(A) a water soluble or water dispersible hydrophilic polymer grafted with oligomers or co-oligomers, wherein the oligomers or co-oligomers comprise ~~a first chiral region, said first chiral region being mainly composed of first chiral monomers having identical chirality~~ homo-oligomers of L-lactic acid, and

(B) a water soluble or water dispersible hydrophilic polymer grafted with oligomers or co-oligomers, wherein the oligomers or co-oligomers comprise ~~a second chiral region with a chirality that is opposite to the chirality of the first chiral region, said second chiral region being mainly composed of second chiral monomers having identical chirality to one another, said second chiral monomers having chirality that is opposite to the chirality of said first chiral monomers~~ homo-oligomers of D-lactic acid,

in an aqueous system,

~~such that the chiral region of the oligomers or co-oligomers in (B) are in essence complementary to the chiral region in (A), wherein the first chiral region and the second chiral region~~ wherein said homo-oligomers of L-lactic acid and said homo-oligomers of D-lactic acid interact noncovalently.

2-6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended): Hydrogel composition according to claim [[6]]1, wherein the water soluble or water dispersible hydrophilic polymer is dextran.

8-12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended): Hydrogel composition according to claim 1, wherein ~~the first chiral region and the second chiral region~~ said homo-oligomers of L-lactic acid and said homo-oligomers of D-lactic acid are comprised of 7-25 ~~chiral~~ lactic acid monomers on average.

14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended): Process for the preparation of a hydrogel comprising:

a) polymerizing ~~a first chiral monomer~~ L-lactic acid, optionally in the presence of a suitable initiator;

b) polymerizing ~~a second chiral monomer~~ D-lactic acid, ~~said second chiral monomer having opposite chirality to said first chiral monomer,~~ optionally in the presence of a suitable initiator;

c) reacting the product of step a) with a suitable coupling compound and a water soluble or water dispersible hydrophilic polymer to form a water soluble or water dispersible hydrophilic polymer grafted with oligomers or co-oligomers, wherein the oligomers or co-oligomers comprise ~~a first chiral region, said first chiral region being mainly composed of first chiral monomers having identical chirality~~ homo-oligomers of L-lactic acid;

d) reacting the product of step b) with a suitable coupling compound and a water soluble or water dispersible hydrophilic polymer to form a water soluble or water dispersible hydrophilic polymer grafted with oligomers or co-oligomers, wherein the oligomers or co-oligomers comprise ~~a second chiral region with a chirality that is opposite to the chirality of the first chiral regions, said second chiral regions being mainly composed of second chiral monomers having identical chirality to one another, said second chiral monomer having chirality that is opposite to the chirality of said first chiral monomers~~ homo-oligomers of D-lactic acid; and

e) mixing the product of step c) and the product of step d) in an aqueous system such that the ~~oligomers or co-oligomers~~ homo-oligomers of L-lactic acid and the homo-oligomers of D-lactic acid interact noncovalently.

16. (previously presented): Process according to claim 15, said suitable initiator comprising a primary or secondary hydroxyl group.

17. (previously presented): Process according to claim 15, wherein an active ingredient is added prior to or during step e).

18-23. (canceled)

24. (previously presented): A method for drug delivery comprising administering the hydrogel composition of claim 31.

25-26. (canceled)

27. (previously presented): Process according to claim 17, wherein the active ingredient is a drug to be released.

28. (previously presented): Process according to claim 27, wherein the drug to be released is selected from proteins and proteinaceous products.

29. (previously presented): Hydrogel composition according to claim 1, wherein the hydrogel is formed in microspheres.

30. (previously presented): Hydrogel composition according to claim 1, further comprising an active ingredient.

31. (previously presented): Hydrogel composition according to claim 30, wherein the active ingredient is a drug to be released.